

**Testimony before the House Committee on
Consumer Protection & Commerce**

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**By Paul A. Nakagawa
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Construction and Maintenance Department
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

**Monday, March 30, 2015
2:00 pm, Conference Room 325**

**House Concurrent Resolution 60/House Resolution 30
Requesting the Public Utilities Commission to Work with the Major Utility Industries
in the State to Develop a Mechanism to Coordinate Repairs to Damaged Utility Poles**

Chairman McKelvey, Vice-Chairman Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Nakagawa and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric and its subsidiaries, Hawaii Electric Light and Maui Electric.

Electrical, cable, and phone service to residents and businesses are essential to daily life. When such service is interrupted by unplanned events, it becomes inconvenient to customers and imperative for Hawaiian Electric to restore service as soon as reasonably possible. As a Hawaiian Electric employee involved in such restorations, we strive to work safely and efficiently in coordinating and repairing damaged utility poles. With respect to the intent of this House Concurrent Resolution and House Resolution, we will work with the Public Utilities Commission and other utilities in the State to develop a mechanism to better coordinate repairs to damaged utility poles, as we continually strive already to do.

In addition, we would like to clarify two points in the preamble of HCR 60 and HR 30 as written. First, In reference to pg. 1, line 9, HCR 60 and HR 30 both state "WHEREAS, Hawaii utilities, including electricity, phone, and state or city-owned streetlights jointly own approximately fifty-five thousand utility poles, while Hawaiian Electric has sole ownership of approximately fifteen thousand utility poles..." We would like to point out that in addition to the jointly owned poles and poles solely owned by Hawaiian Electric, there are also many poles owned solely by the other utilities, including telephone/telecom poles and State and City streetlight poles. Second, pg. 1, line 23, HCR 60 and HR 30 both state "*WHEREAS, the Legislature understands that it is the Hawaiian Electric Companies' responsibility to replace the utility pole.*" This statement is made in the absolute, which is not necessarily the case. The Hawaiian Electric Companies' are responsible to

only replace poles in which they have ownership, whether solely owned or jointly owned with other entities. Poles in which we don't have ownership are replaced by the respective owner or owners, including telephone/telecom poles and streetlight poles mentioned earlier.

We appreciate the support of the Legislature in hearing and understanding our concerns as we work together to address this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.